

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated November 16, 2004, claims 15, 31, and 47 have been cancelled and claims 1, 16, 17, 32, 33, and 48 have been amended. Claims 1-14, 16-30, 32-46, and 48 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Interview Summary and Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed February 7, 2002 failed to comply due to a lack of a form 1449.

On December 10, 2004, an interview was conducted between Applicants' Attorney Jason S. Feldmar, Reg. No. 39,187 and Examiner Thai regarding the missing form 1449. Applicants indicated that the 1449 form was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement mailed on January 25, 2002 as indicated on the submission documents. Receipt of the 1449 form was further indicated by a return postcard stamped by the OIPE. Accordingly, Examiner Thai indicated that the 1449 should be resubmitted along with a copy of the return postcard. With this response, Applicants submit a copy of the previously filed form 1449 and a copy of the return postcard. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the references cited in the IDS mailed on January 25, 2002 with an indication of such review by initialing the form 1449.

III. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraphs (2)-(3) of the Office Action, claims 1-14, 17-30, and 33-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Zuffante et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,219,049 B1 (Zuffante). However, in paragraphs (5)-(6) of the Office Action, claim 15 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims and claims 31 and 47 are objected for the same reasons applied to claim 15 except for system and readable medium instead of method claim. Applicants have amended the allowable dependent claims into independent form and submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Thus, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter set forth in the Office Action, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 17, and 33 are in condition for allowance. Further,

dependent claims 2-14, 16, 18-30, 32, 34-46, and 48 are submitted to be allowable over Zuffante in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 17, and 33, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims.

IV. Conclusion

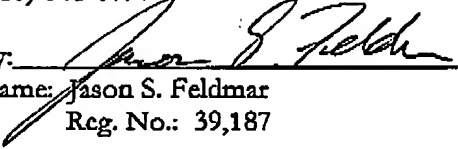
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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